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against this national misfortune, the greatest which has befallen us, and by every sacrifice to wash off this stain on our character, so that we may re-establish Rumania's credit. . ."

Prof. Basilescu's appeal unfortunately fell on deaf ears and caused no reaction whatever. The writer, too, was naïve enough to entertain the belief that by throwing a stone into the turbid pool of Rumanian consciousness it would be possible to impart some movement to its stagnant waters. He therefore, some years ago, published a booklet of social essays containing some of the quintessence of our western social thought, as well as a short criticism of the misgovernment from which Rumania was and is suffering. In order to ensure the distribution of the booklet it was sold for the benefit of a Rumanian educational institute, but, as happened with Prof. Basilescu's campaign, it evoked no response whatever in the hidebound consciousness of the Rumanian intelligentsia.[1] Rumanians cannot plead that they have not been put on their guard as to the inevitable consequences of their shortcomings. Both native and foreign observers have repeatedly admonished them and urged them to mend their ways before it was too late; so that the crisis they are traversing to-day may with some justification be diagnosed as of their own making.

There is no country which has been the cause of greater disillusionment and bitterness to the British investor or exporter than Rumania, and the writer, who has largely shared this experience, feels in duty bound to his fellow countrymen to counsel total abstinence from participation in Rumanian enterprises so long as the present system endures. These practices have cast a slur on the mercantile classes, and educated Rumanians have shown a tendency to avoid following a commercial career, leaving this field of activity to alien elements, to the great detriment of the country, which is thus deprived of the opportunity of building up an independent middle-class, whose steadying effect on the general life of the community and in the formation of an enlightened public opinion would be invaluable.

So it is not merely financial reasons that press for the re-

[1] This was published in Rumanian, under the title: "Essays, Social and Scientific" by the Bucarest publishing firm of Datina Romaneasca.